

## Message Text

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22-11

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AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: URUGUAYAN MEAT SALES AND SALE TO EGYPT

LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS, FCA FROM AGATT.

1. IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT URUGUAYAN PACKING HOUSES HAVE SOLD VIA AN EGYPTIAN BROKER 22,000 METRIC TONS OF BEEF FOR JANUARY-APRIL SHIPMENT. PRESS REPORTS INDICATED THAT BEEF WILL BE FROZEN COMPENSATED QUARTERS AND THAT SHIPMENTS ARE SCHEDULED 4,000 TONS FOR JANUARY, 8,000 TONS FOR FEBRUARY, 8,000 TONS FOR MARCH AND 2,000 TONS FOR APRIL. AVERAGE PRICE REPORTED AT \$580 PER TON. PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT EGYPT NEEDS TO IMPORT 6,000 TONS PER MONTH. BROKER CLAIMS IN PRESS ACCOUNTS THAT URUGUAY COULD EXPORT UP TO 70,000 TONS OF BEEF THIS YEAR TO EGYPT. HE ALSO CITES POSSIBILITIES FOR SALES TO IRAN AND IRAQ AND SAUDI ARABIA.

2. PRESS ACCOUNTS INDICATE THAT 22,000 TONS ALL FOR EGYPT, BUT TRADE SOURCES INDICATE THAT SOME COULD BE FOR OTHER MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES AS WELL.

3. WITH THIS SALE TO EGYPT AND EARLIER SALES INCLUDING 9,000 TONS SOLD TO ISRAEL, INAC - INSTITUTE NACIONAL DE CARNES - ESTIMATES BEEF SALES FOR JANUARY-MAY OF 1976 AT 60,000 TONS. THIS COMPARES WITH ACTUAL EXPORTS OF 19,524 TONS DURING FIRST 5 MONTHS OF 1975. INAC ALSO CITES SALES OF 130,000 CASES OF CORNED-BEEF FOR EARLY 1976 SHIPMENT.

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4. 1975 MEAT (INCLUDES MUTTON AND OFFALS) EXPORTS ARE REPORTED BY INAC AT AROUND 103,687 TONS VALUED AT \$86.7 MILLION VERSUS 1974 EXPORTS OF 115,750 TONS VALUED AT \$148.2 MILLION. BEEF EXPORTS IN 1975 WERE AROUND 87,200 TONS (PRODUCT WEIGHT) VERSUS 102, 624 TONS IN 1974.

5. OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE PLACES 1975 BEEF EXPORTS ON CARCASS WEIGHT EQUIVALENT AT 98,000 TONS VERSUS 115,000 IN 1974 AND FORECASTS 1976 EXPORTS AT 150,000 TONS, A RECORD HIGH FOR URUGUAY. HOWEVER, CATTLE NUMBER ARE ALSO AT A RECORD HIGH (NEARLY 12 MILLION HEAD) AND EXPORTS WILL HAVE TO EXCEED 150,000 TONS IF INCREASE IN CATTLE HERD IS TO BE HALTED AND CATTLE NUMBERS REDUCED. PASTURES ARE GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE OVERCROWDED AND A DROUGHT COULD CAUSE A VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM TO LIVESTOCK SECTOG THAT IS ALREADY IN DIRE STRAIGHTS.  
SIRACUSA

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